

Objectives

- ▶ estimate the kinds and amounts of trash generated by the school
- ▶ start a recycling program at the school
- ▶ devise ways to use recyclables

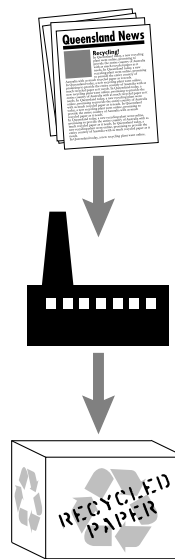
Vocabulary

recycle
precycle

Background

Today, the increased demand for wood products is, in part, fueling the drive to cut down the forests. For example, experts have estimated that the average American uses seven trees a year, in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. That's over one-and-a-half billion trees a year!

One of the best ways to reduce the destruction of forests is to recycle. Rather than taking more new materials from the earth, people use the same materials over and over again.



Recycling means less digging and drilling, less cutting and dumping, and less destruction of forests, rivers, and fields.

In devising the recycling program, classroom students will be using the same scientific processes—observing, communicating, comparing, ordering, categorizing, relating, inferring, and applying—as the students at the SFS rainforest site.

Materials

bins for recyclables
poster board
paint and paintbrushes

Activity

1. Have students estimate the kinds and amounts of trash generated by their school each day, week, and school year. This can be done by weighing trash material, such as paper, from one classroom and multiplying the amount by the number of classrooms in the school. Repeat the procedure for other materials. Record the results on the chart.
2. Brainstorm ways to reuse the recyclables. Record the information on the chart. Share the information with other classes.
3. Create a flyer explaining how recycling will work at the school. Distribute the flyer to students, teachers, and other school employees.
4. Place recycling bins in classrooms, offices, the cafeteria, and other strategic locations. Place instructions for their use near the recycling bins.
5. Appoint recycling monitors to see that recyclables are being deposited in the correct bins and to note when the bins are full.
6. Appoint a team of students who will be responsible for taking the bins to a recycling center.
7. Have students present the results of the recycling program to the school.

WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET

Name: _____

Material	Amount of trash generated before recycling	% of total	Amount of trash generated after recycling	% of total	Possible in-school uses of recycled material
paper and cardboard					
books					
magazines					
glass					
aluminum cans					
metals					
plastics					
styrofoam trays & cups					
food wastes					
yard wastes					